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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,023	12/28/2001	Michael J. Hopmeier	38587.0029	3820
25227	7590	12/08/2003		
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP 1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD SUITE 300 MCLEAN, VA 22102				
EXAMINER				
CROSS, LATOYA I				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1743				

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

## Application No.

10/029,023

## Applicant(s)

HOPMEIER, MICHAEL J.

## Examiner

LaToya I. Cross

## Art Unit

1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2/19/03. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 8, 9, 11-15 and 17-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,942,440 to Dooley et al.

Dooley et al teach a system and method for detecting contaminants in a water supply, such as lakes, ponds, streams, creeks, etc. These water supplies are considered to be geographical areas. The method involves placing a plurality of sampling units in the water supply at different locations. The sampling units absorb contaminants present in the water (col. 17, lines 13-36). After collection, the contaminants are analyzed by a gas analyzer, which may be directly connected to the sampling unit (col. 20, lines 51-53; col. 21, lines 27-30). With respect to claim 8, Dooley et al teach that any number of sampling units may be used to absorb contaminants. Increasing the number of sampling units used will enhance the contamination profile of the sample and allow for a more accurate determination of site-specific remediation (col. 26, lines 18-22). With respect to claim 15, where Applicants claim the additional step of taking action to protect the agricultural operation, Dooley et al teach that after the results of gas analysis are obtained, a pollution map is created and a plan for remediation is developed. With respect to claims 17 and 20, the gas analyzer provides a control system, connected to each of the sampling units that provide an output for the user on the results of the analyses. With respect to claim

19, the sampling unit allows a portion of the water supply to enter and the contaminants from that portion are absorbed and analyzed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 2-7, 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dooley et al in view of US Patent 5,789,183 to Lee et al.

The disclosure of Dooley et al is described in detail above. Dooley et al differ from the instantly claimed invention in that there is no disclosure of detecting contaminants in plants or animals.

Lee et al teach detection of contaminants in rice crops. The method of Lee et al involves on-farm sensors to detect spore movement into and out of rice fields or larger production areas and also to detect fungus in rice seeds. After measuring levels of fungus, the information is used to predict disease severity and establish economic

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thresholds for disease control efforts (col. 24, lines 59-67). Given the need for early detection of disease states in crop fields, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the method of Dooley et al in crop fields since the method allows complete, easy, accurate detection of contaminants to provide results useful in preventing or correcting the contamination problem. The same method could also be applied to animal farms, where there is a need to detect and control contamination.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaToya I. Cross whose telephone number is 703-305-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on 703-308-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

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December 1, 2003

  
Jill Warden  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1700